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I N S I D E

Around the CNMI



The USS Kitty Hawk in this picture from the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet Ships website www.c7f.navy.mil/ship.htm.

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

America's oldest military warship, USS Kitty Hawk, berthed at the Saipan lagoon briefly around 10:45am Friday for precision positioning, the Commonwealth Ports Authority said. But the ship did not stay that long and stayed outside the Saipan Harbor.

Due to shallow waters, the ship berthed out of the breakwater and left immediately, Saipan seaport manager Tony Cabrera said.

He explained that there was no report as to where USS Kitty Hawk was heading or even what the reason for the berthing was, besides the information provided the Seaport division that it would be on the water for a short period of time.

"I don't know why they were here. We were just told that they would be berthing. They stayed out on the water. It was merely precision positioning and probably part of their military exercise," said Cabrera during Friday's CPA Board meeting.

USS Kitty Hawk is the lead ship of the Navy's second class of "super carriers" and the second ship in the Navy to bear this name. Since August 1998, USS Kitty Hawk is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, where she relieved the now decommissioned USS Independence as the only forward deployed aircraft carrier in the Navy.

On March 21, 2002, USS Kitty Hawk became the first carrier in the U.S. Navy to perform test firings with the Rolling Airframe Missile System. It was commissioned in 1960 with overall length of 10,465 feet or 319 meters. USS Kitty Hawk's flight deck width is 252 feet or 76.8 meters and cost about \$400 million in 1961. It can accommodate 85 aircraft and has 2,900 men onboard and a 2,480-men crew at the air wing. It is armed with Mk 29 NATO Sea Sparrow launchers, 20mm Phalanx CIWS Mk 15, and Rolling Airframe Missile system.

The year 2000 saw USS Kitty Hawk and its Battle Group operating in the western Pacific. The carrier took part in Exercise

Cobra Gold 2000 and conducted port visits to Phattaya, Thailand; Hong Kong and Singapore.

After the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001, the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group was ordered to deploy to the Indian Ocean and was later involved in combat missions against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. The Battle Group returned to Yokosuka on Dec. 23, 2001.

In 2002, Northern Marianas government officials and business executives were invited to join servicemen onboard the aircraft carrier. USS Kitty Hawk has a 70-man security, a 300-man public works force, a ship-wide, closed circuit television system for entertainment, and holds religious services for several denominations.

Some of the local officials who were invited to the aircraft carrier by U.S. Naval Forces were Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Special Assistant for Administration Thomas Tebuteb, and some members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

PIA plane forced to return to Saipan after landing gear fails

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

A Pacific Island Aviations airplane was forced to return to the Saipan International Airport Friday morning after its landing gear failed to activate when it was about to land at the Rota airport.

The airplane circled the Rota airport five times before the two pilots decided to return to Saipan. The plane managed to land at the Saipan airport safely. All 13 passengers aboard the 9:15am flight were safe.

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos H. Salas, the plane was on its way to Guam and Rota when the incident happened.

Salas said the PIA pilots decided to return to Saipan around 9:30am and sought the assistance of the SIA Traffic Control so that the plane could land safely at the airport's runway.

"All passengers are safe and that was a brave thing to do. The pilots took an emergency landing after deciding to come

back to Saipan. The aircraft experienced mechanical problem and its landing gears did not come out when it was about to land on Rota," said the executive director.

Salas appreciated the pilots' decision to return to Saipan instead of landing on Rota. He said the pilots were brave and decided accordingly.

According to Salas, it was later found that the plane's landing gear had failed to activate.

In late 1990s, two Tinian residents sued the PIA, saying they suffered psychological trauma when the PIA plane they were on crash landed in 1998 on its way to Guam.

Rosita C. Palacios and Carleen P. Mendiola asked for punitive damages amounting to \$1 million in the civil complaint they filed before the Superior Court through their lawyer Joshua A. Berger.

The two women took the PIA Tinian-Guam flight on Dec. 8, 1998 to do some Christmas shopping on Guam during the day and come back to Tinian in the evening.

However, the aircraft's landing gear failed to operate when

it was about to land on Guam, forcing the plane to circle Won Pat International Airport several times before finally crash landing.

"PIA has engaged in a pattern and practice of improperly maintaining the aircraft which operated in the CNMI," the civil complaint said.

PIA denied all the allegations. It said the two women did not understand the meaning of the term "crash landed." The airline claimed it was not responsible for the alleged injuries they sustained.

Community urged to honor NMI's public safety officers

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente urged the community to honor the men and women of the Public Safety Department as they put their lives on the line to effectively carry out law enforcement activities.

During Friday's ceremony at the Department of Public Safety, Benavente led members of the CNMI government and the community in paying homage to law enforcement officers who gave their lives so that the CNMI may live in safety.

"We honor them not because of how they died, but because of how they lived. Everyday they put on a badge that symbolized the commitment they made to

serve and protect the citizens of the Commonwealth. In fulfilling that commitment, they gave their all for us," said the Lt. Gov.

He said that no speech, no flag and no ceremony could bring back police officers who served with their life to see the CNMI safe and in peace.

"So let us honor the brave men who have made the ultimate sacrifice and renew our commitment to the men and women who still serve us every day, that we will do everything we can to prevent adding another name to the list of the fallen. Thank you," Benavente said.

The Peace Officers Candle

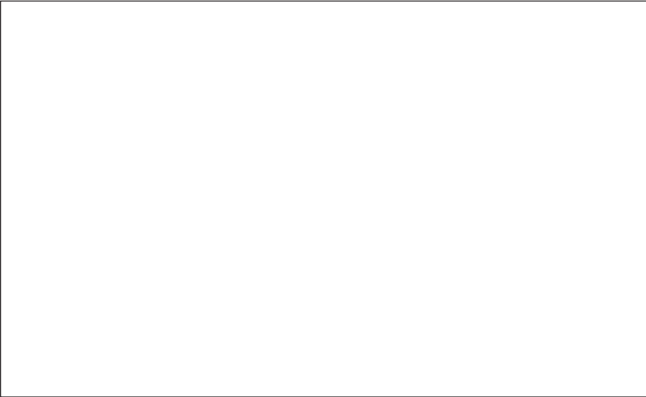
Light Vigil and Peace Officers Memorial Service was held as part of National Police Week.

Officers killed in the line of duty were Capt. Justino T. Arriola, Police Officer III Abraham S. Quitugua, and Police Officer II Gilbert M. Taisacan. Officers injured were Officer Marvin S. Camacho, Sgt. Antonio S. Borja, and Officer Jose B. Cepeda.

The event was also dedicated to former officer I-Chih Eddie L. Chen, who served the CNMI community from Sept. 25, 1995 to Dec. 23, 1999. Chen and seven other U.S. soldiers were killed by hostile fire in Sadr City in Baghdad last April 4. (Edith Alejandro)


mcd

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.






















KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

It's all about the different cultures

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Yesterday marked a day filled with cultural showcases as three schools from Saipan and one from Japan engaged in activities featuring various cultures of the world.

Students from Kagman Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Marianas High School and Seisa Gakuen High School were busy showcasing various musical and dance numbers, as each held respective Cultural Day activities at their school grounds.

The elementary schools' program featured performances from each grade level class.

The Kagman school festivities also included awards ceremonies for theme and drawing contests reflecting the promotion of cultures. Third grade student Francisco Rasa won the theme competition while Louie Bautista won the drawing contest.

"Everybody worked very hard and they're all excited for this day. We're all happy to be here...the parents, students, teachers and guests," said organizing chair Laura Lewis.

Oleai's festival also included award ceremonies for theme

and essay contests as well as its annual Royal Coronation, which officially declared students Orlando Marciano and Jennalyd Babauta as King and Queen for the school year. Winning the theme contest was Alana Leon Guerrero while Odessa Sacro, Kyle Enriquez, and Kaheolani Alfred were named top three in the essay contest.

The other festival was held at the Marianas High School campus, where both Saipan and Seisa Gakuen students shared respective cultural performances. Local-made booths were also built by the Marianas High students.

The Seisa Gakuen students arrived last Wednesday as part of the 18th Annual Miyazawa Culture Exchange program.

The event also included various competitions between classes.

"This [event] takes a tremendous amount of organizational work, so it shows the dedication of our staff," said MHS principal Dr. James Denight. "The student body...the kids are great and it shows because it's a cultural celebration and they all get along so well. They show a lot of respect and courteous behavior to each other. It's a great learning experience for everyone."



Students from Seisa Gakuen High School perform a dance number at the MHS festivities.



Siesa Gakuen High School students engaged in a drum performance that caught the attention of many during Marianas High School's Cultural Day festivities.



Kagman Elementary School Kindergarten students perform a dance number during yesterday's Cultural Day.



Marianas High School students perform a Palauan dance.



Oleai Elementary School students entertain the crowd with a dance number.



Kagman elementary first grade students entertain the crowd with a Polynesian number.

A couple of third grade students get their groove on, dancing to the song "Islands Girls".

golds gym

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

New allies for cell research

Couples having trouble conceiving a child may wonder whether their insurance covers infertility treatments. They don't wonder whether they have a right to treatment at all, even though some treatments produce extra human embryos, more than 400,000 of which lie in frozen storage. Most are likely to be discarded. Opponents of putting those embryos, the width of a human hair, to scientific use call it murder. But protesters don't wait in the streets near fertility labs as they do near abortion clinics.

This sort of ethical schizophrenia is one force behind gathering demands that the government support research on the many possible medical uses of embryonic stem cells. The most promising research paths concern Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, muscular dystrophy, diabetes and cystic fibrosis. Former first lady Nancy Reagan, long a quiet supporter of stem cell research, has gone public. She movingly describes the loss of her husband to Alzheimer's, even as his body still lives.

A bipartisan congressional delegation will meet with key Bush administration advisers Wednesday in hope of persuading the president to ease a ban on federal funding for research on embryonic stem cells. By studying how these master cells differentiate into muscle, brain and other specialized human tissues, researchers may learn how to grow cells that will treat diseases.

President Bush's decision nearly three years ago was to let federally funded researchers study 64 embryonic stem cell lines created before his August 2001 cutoff date. A few were added later, but most of the approved lines are either unavailable or contaminated with mouse "feeder cells." Researchers studying whether adult stem cells can be used instead are concluding that adult cells are not nearly as plentiful or biologically powerful as once hoped.

Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., a doctor and strong opponent of embryo research, recently said, "Let the private sector fund it, because taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for what many think is unethical." Along with curtailing research, that road could be reckless. It would not curb the "anything goes" competitive urges of private research and would focus effort only on the biggest potential moneymakers.

The publicly financed research that congressional supporters propose would provide rules and monitoring. Funding would be limited to embryos from fertility clinics. Donors would have to offer informed consent and could not be paid.

In recent months, even some of Bush's closest anti-abortion allies, including Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., have pushed for a policy change. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., said last week: "I'm pro-life. Been pro-life for 14 years. But this is an area in which we can save lives." Not only that, but keep key researchers and projects in the United States.

The moral decision is between putting these few-celled embryos in the trash and using them to possibly bring back lost memory, keep people out of wheelchairs or free them from a lifetime of insulin injections. It is not a simple decision, but it is also not a close call.

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Restoring honor to service

By **STEPHEN BUDIANSKY**
Special to The Baltimore Sun

The example of Pat Tillman, who turned down a \$3.6 million NFL contract to enlist as a U.S. Army private and who died last month fighting in Afghanistan, is more than a story of one man's exceptional sacrifice: It is a story of one nation's loss of its moral compass.

In World War II, the historian (and ex-Marine) William Manchester recalled, "everybody who was fit went."

Sports heroes went—Joe DiMaggio, Hank Greenberg, Joe Louis. Entertainers and movie stars went—Red Skelton, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Henry Fonda, Jimmy Stewart, Clark Gable, Glenn Miller. And politicians and the sons of politicians went—Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., who resigned his Senate seat to become a tank commander in the African desert; even the president's son, Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., who earned a citation for bravery as a gunnery officer on a destroyer.

Among those killed in action in World War II were the sons of ambassadors and governors and congressmen and high government officials, including the 18-year-old son of FDR's close adviser and confidant, Harry Hopkins.

It was, simply, a disgrace not to serve if one could. It was a disgrace especially for a prominent or influential person to be even suspected of having used his prominence or influence to protect his family from the call to duty that the poor and anonymous had no choice but to heed.

What makes Tillman's story so poignant is not just his sacrifice; it is how rare it has become in today's American society. Among 435 congressmen and 100 senators, there is one—one—who has a son or daughter who served on active duty in Iraq: the son of Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota. The professionalization of our armed forces has removed the outward stigma of not serving. It has done nothing to alter the underlying moral ill of a system in which the prominent and influential fail to share the burden.

Anyone who has spent time with our men and women in uniform today comes away awestruck by their dedication, professionalism, patriotism, decency and intelligence. But there is no escaping, as we read the rosters of the dead and see the names of their hometowns in western Pennsylvania or West Virginia or Texas, and read about

their families and their struggles, that the elite in our society are not sharing the burden in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Pentagon says that the last thing it wants is to go back to a conscript armed forces. Sensing a sure loser, most politicians agree. Various proposals in recent years to institute a program of universal national service for all 18-year-olds have proved politically dead on arrival.

But it is time we started thinking seriously about it, especially at a time when it is clear we have taken on a burden of nation-building in Iraq that is stretching available military manpower to the very limit. Even conservative calculations suggest we need two or three times as many people in Iraq as we have there now if that country is to have a prayer of becoming secure and stable.

But there are other powerful arguments in favor of universal national service that go beyond any immediate manpower needs.

It is corrosive to the very fabric of a democracy that people of influence and power are so insulated from any risk of personal loss when our men and women in uniform are ordered into harm's way.

It is dangerous to the health of our military as an institution that there are not more people in uniform who come from all walks of life and who, for example, might be more inclined to protest the rare, but disastrous, wrongful order, rather than keep silent and look after their careers (as the recent prisoner abuse scandal has perhaps shown). And it is simply wrong and unjust that the burden of service and sacrifice should fall so disproportionately on the poor and disadvantaged of our society.

Universal national service need not be confined to military service. Our nation's needs are huge: homeland security, failing inner-city schools, aging infrastructure, environmental problems.

Requiring every 18-year-old to give two years to his country would be a huge step toward reinstalling values that were once part of the very air we breathed as members of a democracy: that we all have a say, and a stake, in the direction our country takes, and that we all—rich and poor, prominent and anonymous, sons of presidents and sons of truck drivers—all share the responsibility that comes with freedom.

Budiansky is the author of "Air Power: The Men, Machines, and Ideas that Revolutionized War, from Kitty Hawk to Gulf War II" (Viking, 2004).

Victory should be the only goal

By **BRUCE HERSCHENSOHN**
Special to the Los Angeles Times

It may seem to be a radical idea, but why not use every means possible—without politically correct detours—to win the war against terrorism?

Our victory in World War II was not achieved by trying to win the hearts and minds of Germans and Japanese. We did not dominate the newsreels with pictures of those things a few American troops did to captured enemies. We did not call for an end to domestic profiling. We did not demonstrate against our military involvement. There was not the outrageous political complaint that “I support the troops but oppose the war.”

Instead of all that, we bombed our enemies to submission with all the power and weaponry we had available. After our costly invasion of Europe, with immense U.S. casualties, the atomic bomb was ready—and to prevent another invasion, we used it on Japan. Today, we justifiably call those Americans of the 1940s “the Greatest Generation.” During those years of war, there was one issue: winning the war by demanding absolute and unconditional surrender of our enemies. Other issues were put aside as luxuries that would be reserved for a later time; there was not a simultaneous cry for saving the environment and a demand for creating more jobs and an insistence on government—provided health care and lower costs for prescription drugs.

But in the 1960s came the Vietnam War, along with its battles televised to American living rooms. Since that war, too many Americans have insisted only on fast wars with few casualties. They all had to be something like the invasion of Grenada or the liberation of Kuwait.

But if we want to win the war against terrorism we must accept a lengthy war with many casualties, because the consequences of defeat will mean our future generations will be left to lifetimes of fear. If we lose this war, we will be on the road back to the Middle Ages.

The devil with winning the hearts and minds of enemies who believe in primitive and uncivilized governments while being taught to hate the United States. The devil with allowing privileged sanctuaries for the enemy as we did during much of the Vietnam War. Now privileged sanctuaries provide safety not for the North Vietnamese army in Laos and Cambodia but for terrorists and their headquarters and safe houses and training centers in Syria and Lebanon and Iran and Yemen and the West Bank and Gaza. And the devil with congressional commissions that do little more than bring aid and comfort to our enemies.

After the defeat in Southeast Asia, the peace achieved by the enemy cost more lives than the war. This seems lost in history and intentionally lost in the memory of many Americans who rallied against the war in Vietnam. More than a million “boat people” escaped the horrors of re-education camps in Vietnam, but it’s estimated that half of them drowned in the South China Sea. More than 2 million people lost their lives in the genocide of Cambodia’s peace. If we should lose this war on terrorism, Americans could march to re-education camps, others will become boat people and the U.S. will become a Western mirror of Cambodia’s genocide.

In fairness, there is an alternative to our involvement in the war against terrorism, and that is to leave our fate to the international community under the United Nations. Yes, the United Nations can bring about peace: the peace of the palace for the few in authority, the peace of subjugation for the many and the peace of mass graves for the courageous.

The only subject worthy of our national attention and the only pursuit that should be acceptable is total victory—no matter if others are offended or even destroyed. I know this kind of thinking is not considered acceptable in 2004. But we better accept it—and quickly. And if we make it our only cause and unconditional victory is achieved, our leadership and our troops and our home—front supporters of their mission will be known as another “Greatest Generation.”

Herschensohn teaches foreign policy at the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy and is the author of “Passport.”



By **RUTH L. TIGHE**

As the so-called and undeclared “war” on terrorism gets bloodier, dirtier, it seems important to point out once again, that terrorism is not the enemy, but a tactic. As staff writer George Packer put it in an article in the February 16 and 23 issue of The New Yorker, “In treating the war on terrorism as a mere military struggle, the administration’s mistake begins with the name itself. ‘Terrorism’ is a method; the terror used by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka is not the enemy in this war. The enemy is an ideology—... ‘Islamist totalitarianism’—that reaches from Karachi to London, from Riyadh to Brooklyn, and that uses terror to advance its ends.

“The administration’s failure to grasp the political nature of the war has led to many crucial mistakes, most notably the Pentagon’s attitude that... we could have democracy on the cheap: once the dictators and terrorists were rooted out, the logic went, freedom would spontaneously grow in their place.”

“They don’t get it because they don’t believe this is an ideology,” Packer quotes a political scientist as saying of the administration. “They believe this is a state-based threat—that if you get rid of evil people, who are in finite supply, you will have solved the problem.” (emphasis added)

Senator Joseph Biden (D, Delaware) notes, in the article, that “there is a world-wide struggle between the values of liberal democracy and... destructive ideologies...; in this struggle, America needs to expand the conditions for democracy in the most concrete ways, and with serious commitments of energy and resources, or risk greater instability.”

Biden, according to the article, suggested—prior to the invasion of Iraq—that the U.S. build, staff and supply a thousand schools in Afghanistan, at a cost of \$20,000 each. The schools would employ teachers, many of them women, who had been jobless and desperate under the Taliban, and they would teach a modern curriculum to children, who, if they had any schooling at all, knew only the Islamist education of madrassa. “It was something concrete we could show the Afghanis we’re doing, Biden said. “It was something other than the butt of a gun.” (and much less costly.) It did not, of course, happen. The U.S. invaded Iraq instead, in its “war” against terrorism.

The article’s main point is that the Democratic Party in the U.S. has lost its resolve, and is not speaking out strongly enough, is not proposing more appropriate ways of combating Islamic use of terror tactics. Packer, in advocating a much stronger sense of civic responsibility, a much greater involvement of ordinary citizens in

the struggle, writes, “It’s fair to ask, though, how a body politic as out of shape as ours is likely to make it over the long hard slog of wartime; how convincingly we can export liberal democratic values when our own version shows so many signs of atrophy; how much solidarity we can expect to muster for Afghanis and Iraqis when we’re asked to feel so little for one another.”

That, it seems to me, is a challenge not only to Democratic Party leaders, but to Republican Party leaders, the administration and to every one of us as well.

□ □ □

A challenge of a different sort was thrown out to the President and Board of Northern Marianas College earlier this week as part of instructor Sam McPhetres’ Social Policy students’ presentation on the role of NMC in the community. One suggestion made in the surveys conducted by the class: that NMC cut costs by conducting a desk audit of non-academic personnel.

NMC President Tony DeLeonGuerrero acknowledged, in responding to the presentation, that NMC staff was top-heavy. But, asked Regent Galvin Guerrero, what happens if the person to be fired is someone with a family to support? Some students said the need to streamline NMC and make it more effective should be the over-riding concern, while others commented on the custom of people taking care of one another. If it is done fairly, with advance notice, with support during the transition, with help in finding another job, it doesn’t have to be a problem, insisted another student at the presentation.

Interestingly, some students said they would not object to raising tuition for the 1,096 students with scholarships another \$5 per credit, provided the 119 students paying their own costs would be protected.

Presentation leader Lucy Henery assured NMC officials and faculty that the point of the presentation was to share information, not to make accusations. The students, she said, are concerned only with improving and helping the college maintain a strong and effective presence in the community, now and in the future.

□ □ □

Later in the week, McPhetres’ class in social issues presented its own challenge: Now that we’ve done the dirty work, help us keep the Japanese jail clean. More than 30 students working in two shifts spent several months of class time cutting branches, tearing out vines and undergrowth, picking up years of accumulated trash, to clean up the long-neglected tourist site. Yet three weeks later, there is graffiti on the walls, trash on the grounds, and regrowth of vines and undergrowth. We can’t do it alone, they said. We need help to maintain it.

□ □ □

Though the House bill proposing to repeal and re-enact the CNMI’s zoning law was introduced by a handful of experienced senior lawmakers, it is disappointingly poorly conceptualized. The two most troublesome aspects are its provision to put the zoning board, and all its authority and concomitant responsibilities under the Mayor’s office, and the inclusion, in the bill, of the establish-

See ON MY MIND on Page 8

Fight for honor spans centuries

Nothing much changes in 3,000 years. That’s the lesson one takes away from the new movie “Troy,” as well as from the continuing stream of violent images from the Middle East.

In that region then, in that region now, men have killed and are still being killed over honor. Moreover, then and now, great emphasis is placed on the honorable treatment of corpses. No wonder “The Iliad” lives forever as literature, because it was the first epic to make vivid man’s eternal preoccupation with such matters of honor—which the Greeks called “time” (rhymes with “relay”). Today, not far from modern-day Turkey—where the Trojan War was fought, according to legend—Americans, Israelis and Arabs are writing new and bloody chapters in the saga that Homer initiated.

As every mildly attentive high school graduate knows, the Trojan War started because one man stole another man’s wife. Soon the Greeks sailed from across the Aegean Sea to Troy, from Europe to Asia, in their 1,000 ships, bent on regime change.

But the heart of the story is the Wrath of Achilles. After sulking in his tent, the great warrior finally emerges and goes berserk, slaughtering his enemies. Indeed, the first lines of “The Iliad” are “Rage—Goddess, sing the age of Peleus’ son Achilles / murderous, doomed.” In our time, every movie featuring an initially reluctant cowboy or cop—from “Shane” to “Lethal Weapon” to the new “Man on Fire”—echoes this epic theme of the man emerging from self-exile to seek justice or wreak revenge.

But Achilles is a tragic hero; he has a fatal flaw. Having killed Hector in honorable battle, the Greek warrior, played in the movie by Brad Pitt, commits a heinous crime in the eyes of gods and men: he desecrates Hector’s body by pulling it behind his chariot as he circles Troy in triumph. So, of course, Achilles must die, too. He is killed by Hector’s brother.

Eons later, honor and mutilation are still on men’s minds. On May 1, terrorists in Saudi Arabia killed six Western oil workers. Then, as if channeling Achilles, they dragged one of the corpses behind their car—until they were all killed, too. But no doubt, at their moment of death, the terrorists believed that they were martyrs, upholding the honor of their beliefs.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, the March 31 murder of four American

By **JAMES P. PINKERTON**
Special to Newsday

Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.



contractors in Fallujah was compounded by the hanging of their charred and dismembered bodies. The U.S. military, summoned to righteous outrage, launched a punitive expedition. Like Troy before it, Fallujah was besieged; hundreds more died.

And on Tuesday, the videotape showing the decapitation of young Nicholas Berg was revealed to the world; three millennia after the Trojan War, men still use blades to kill other men.

Not far away, in the Israeli-occupied territories, honor and dishonor are yet again bloodily and endlessly entwined. On Tuesday, Israeli soldiers entered Gaza City, determined to mete out retaliation for a past massacre of Israeli civilians. But the Palestinians blew up one of the armored vehicles, killing six Israelis. After the explosion, Palestinians descended on the scene, scooping up the Israeli body parts.

The Palestinians attempted to ransom the bloody bits of flesh, but the Israelis refused any such negotiations. Instead, the next day, they went house-to-house through the area, looking for both the killers and the remains of their own killed—and at least five more Israelis died in Wednesday’s combat.

Somewhere, the ghost of Achilles looks upon all this honor-defending carnage and applauds. As he says in “The Iliad”: “He dies fighting for fatherland—No dishonor there!”

That’s the bargain that war makes with men: If you fight, you will be remembered—by your own side, at least—as having fought for honor. And maybe a bard will lionize your heroic deeds. It’s a deal that’s kept men fighting for 3,000 years, and there’s no reason to think it won’t work for the next 3,000 years—or for however much time man has left on Earth.

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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3 men arrested for alleged assault

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities arrested Monday night three men who have been a subject of intensive investigations by law enforcers since November 2003 when a 43-year-old man lodged a complaint against them.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said Martin F. Borja, 38; Chris W. Taimanglo, 20; and William M. Faisao, 19, were arrested based on the arrest warrants issued against them by Judge Juan Lizama.

Blas said COPPS officers Jesse Seman and Sandy Hambros arrested the three suspects in connection with a Nov. 16, 2003, assault case lodged by Saburo Stewart, 43.

Lizama issued the warrants after the police released the results of its investigation on the case. The officers immediately served the warrants to the suspects. All three were brought to the Adult Correctional facility in Susupe where they were booked and detained pending bail hearing.

The investigation report showed that the police department received a call for assistance around 1:28am of Nov. 16, 2003, due to a disturbance in the house of Stewart in Kagman III area. Medics were also dispatched due to injuries sustained by the victim.

According to the report, the victim and two of the three suspects were involved in a fight outside the victim's house. During the squabble, the suspects used rocks, a machete, and a baseball bat to allegedly attack the victim, causing serious injuries.

Stewart reportedly sustained lacerations on the back, legs, and arms, as well as other cuts and bruises on his body.

After the investigation, probers determined the culpability of the three suspects and asked that arrest warrants be issued against them.

The suspects are now facing disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with dangerous weapons, and criminal mischief charges.

Taiwanese boat seized off New Caledonia

A Taiwanese fishing boat has been intercepted south of New Caledonia for fishing illegally.

The French high commission in the New Caledonia capitol of Noumea says the ship had been spotted by a French surveillance aircraft and an inspection showed it carried dozens of tons of fresh and frozen fish.

The interception comes just days after the captain of another Taiwanese fishing boat was jailed for six months and fined almost US\$200,000 for fishing illegally. (RNZI/PIR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Saipan Southern High School students gather around Gov. Juan N. Babauta during the chief executive's recent visit at the campus, in line with the administration's education program. Babauta has been putting emphasis on public education as an important tool in the eventual recovery of the local economy.

MPLA board in limbo due to lack of quorum

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The lack of a quorum on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Public Lands Authority is stymieing efforts to move ahead on critical projects, including 36 new offers for land compensation that require the board's approval.

Only two members remain on the Board—chairperson, Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chairman Manny Villagomez—following the resignation of a member and term expiration of another.

Member Pedro M. Atalig resigned from the board effective Jan. 1, 2004, while member

Pedro Igitol's term expired on Dec. 31, 2003.

The board is composed of five seats, with one representative each from Tinian and Rota and three from Saipan. The CNMI Constitution also provides that one of the directors should be of Carolinian descent, while another should represent women.

At the moment, Demapan-Castro represents Saipan and the women's sector, while Villagomez represents Tinian. This means nobody is representing Rota, the Carolinians, and two seats for Saipan.

This, even as the MPLA has already readied 36 new offers for land compensation that re-

quire the board's approval.

"We have to get the board's approval before we can make the offer but the board can't possibly meet right now for lack of quorum," said MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider.

The board normally holds a regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Hofschneider said that some names have been floated for appointment by the governor to the board. He declined to identify them.

Meantime, he said that 38 landowners have accepted the MPLA's initial offers and are like likely to get their compensation within the month.

"Once Finance puts the

money in MPLA's special account, we can start cutting checks," he said.

Hofschneider said that MPLA is offering "just and fair" compensation to landowners.

The MPLA board approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation last month. This came soon after the CNMI government floated a \$40-million bond, with the proceeds to be used primarily to settle the longstanding land claims by individuals against the government. The first batch of claims included acquisition of rights-of-way.

The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way,

then ponding basins, and later wetlands and other claims.

The payment to landowners is based on the valuation at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

Of the \$40-million bond, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation, as \$11 million has been allotted to fund a pending prison project. The bond's Hawaii-based underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million from the total amount for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

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CORPORATE*Roundup*



United States



American suspect in Spain blasts profiled

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The first American arrested in the deadly train bombing in Madrid is a former Army lieutenant and a convert to Islam who lives in a nondescript suburban home and faithfully attends a nearby mosque.

Family members say Brandon Mayfield is innocent and has never even been to Spain. But law enforcement officials there said Friday that his fingerprints had been found on bags containing detonators of the kind used in the March 11 attack, which killed 191 people and injured 2,000 others.

He is being held as a material witness, which allows the government to detain him without filing formal charges, to allow time for further investigation.

“I think it’s crazy—we haven’t been outside the country for 10 years,” said his wife, Mona. “They found only a part of one fingerprint. It could be anybody. He was in the Army and they’re just trying to fit a certain profile.”

Mayfield, 37, is an attorney who took low-income immigration and family-law clients at his practice in suburban Portland, once representing Muslim terrorism suspect Jeffrey Battle in a child custody case.

Battle was among six Portland-area residents who were sentenced last year on charges of conspiring to wage war against the United States by helping al-Qaida and the former Taliban rulers of Afghanistan.



Mayfield

Mayfield was born in Oregon and grew up in Halstead, Kan., a small farming town about 30 miles northwest of Wichita. He joined the Army right out of high school and was stationed in Germany among other places. He later earned a law degree and settled down in Portland, where he and his Egyptian-born wife have three children.

“He has always been a delight,” said his stepmother, Ruth Alexander of Halstead, recalling a compassionate child who once kept a pet grasshopper. “This is positively unbelievable. He was never in any trouble growing up.”

Mayfield met his wife on a blind date in 1987 while stationed at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. Records from Washoe County, Nev., show the two were married in 1988. Their children are ages 10, 12 and 15.

Their youngest was born on the Bitburg air base in western Germany, where Mayfield was stationed in the air defense unit. Mona Mayfield, 35, said her husband’s only trip to the Middle East was in 1993, when the couple and their children took a 30-day leave to travel to Egypt.

Mayfield was honorably discharged in 1994, after a shoulder injury. He attended Lewis & Clark law school in Portland for a semester, and received his degree from Washburn University in Kansas. He passed the Oregon bar in 2000.

OB/LIZAMA

Methodists endorse church unity after rift

PITTSBURGH (AP)—United Methodists hugged and wept as they overwhelmingly endorsed church unity Friday, a day after a rift over homosexuality broke wide open with an evangelical proposal to split the denomination.

Choking back emotions, delegates spoke in support of the unity resolution at the end of their national policy meeting, which is held once every four years. The measure passed 869-41, with eight abstentions.

“Our denomination was very clear today. We are going to continue as the United Methodist Church as we know it,” said the Rev. John Schol of West Chester, Pa., who organized a group to draft the resolution. “I think we’ll come back in four years a stronger denomination.”

On Thursday, the Rev. William Hinson, a prominent Methodist pastor and president of the conservative Confessing Movement, startled many General Conference participants by announcing he could no longer endure the

dispute over homosexuality that has dragged on since 1972.

He said he had concluded that opposing sides in the debate could never reconcile their views on what the Bible says about gays, so they should divide up the church. The 8.3 million-member denomination is the third-largest in the country.

Hinson said he did not interpret Friday’s vote as a repudiation. Conservative leaders plan to spend the next four years building support among local congregations for a schism.

“I know unity is important, but someone said if you sacrifice truth on the altar of unity you lose both,” Hinson said.

Several hundred evangelical delegates, who had gathered for their daily breakfast strategy session, gave Hinson a standing ovation Friday when he rose to address them. Scott Field, legislative coordinator for a coalition of evangelicals, said they had been flooded with “thumbs-up e-mails and phone calls” in response to the pastor’s speech.

PETE A

Life & Style

Dollars & Sense

Consumer prices keep climbing in April

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation appears to be stirring from its hibernation. Consumer prices are advancing in the first four months of this year at a pace twice as fast as the increase for all of 2003.

That in turn is increasing chances that the Federal Reserve will boost interest rates next month, according to a growing number of analysts. They point to a string of economic reports, from sizable gains in the nation’s payrolls to brisk manufacturing activity, that paint a picture of an economic resurgence that is beginning to fan inflation.

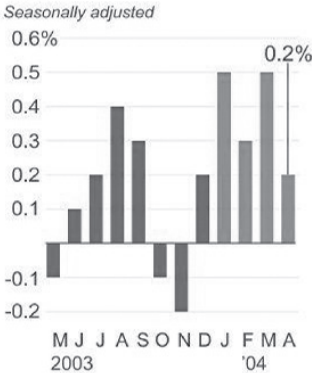
“The economy is just taking off and is taking inflation with it,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. “I think it is just too much for the Fed to ignore, and they will have to tighten policy in June.”

From January to April, consumer prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.4 percent, compared with a 1.9 percent increase for last year, the Labor Department reported Friday. This year’s pickup has been led by sharply higher energy prices, especially for gasoline.

The core rate of inflation, from which energy and food

Consumer prices

Here is a look at percent changes from the preceding month in the Consumer Price Index.



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics AP

prices are excluded, has risen so far this year by 3 percent, outpacing the 1.1 percent rise for 2003.

“Inflation is peeking out from underneath the covers,” said Bill Cheney, chief economist at MFC Global Investment Management, though economists don’t view the price acceleration as particularly worrisome at this point.

In other economic news Friday, the Federal Reserve reported that industrial production jumped by 0.8 percent in April, the biggest increase since November, up from a 0.1 percent dip in March.

The Commerce Department said businesses boosted their

inventories by 0.7 percent in March, a sign that companies feel more confident in the recovery’s staying power. Business sales rose by 2.9 percent in March.

The Dow Jones industrials, meanwhile, edged up 2.13 points to close at 10,012.87.

On inflation, some companies, which have had to keep a lid on price increases during the economic slump, are finding it easier to raise prices now that the economy is rebounding. Wholesale prices in April posted their biggest increase in a year, the

government reported Thursday.

While recent economic reports show inflation moving higher, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues indicated at their meeting last week they are not yet worried. “Long-term inflation expectations appear to have remained well contained,” they said in their report of the session.

Thus, the Fed decided to hold short-term interest rates at a 46-year low of 1 percent, unchanged since last June. The central bank signaled, however,

that rates could move higher now that the economic recovery has firm roots.

An increasing number of economists now believe the Fed will begin raising rates at its next meeting June 29-30, saying Friday’s inflation report, along with a recent batch of mostly strong economic data, would justify such a move.

“Put a fork in the 1 percent funds rate. It’s done,” said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. “The steady, upward creep in inflation contin-

ues and will have to be addressed fairly soon by the Fed.”

Some economists predict a rate increase will come in August; a few think it will come even later.

Analysts don’t believe inflation threatens the recovery, but the upward movement in inflation marks a big change in the pricing climate from a year ago. Then, the Fed worried about the possibility of deflation, a prolonged and widespread price decline.

In April, consumer prices rose by 0.2 percent, while core prices went up 0.3 percent.

WTO members say trade talks on track

PARIS (AP)—Global trade talks are back on track, leading members of the World Trade Organization said Friday, after the United States, Europe and key developing countries bridged some of their differences at a series of meetings in Paris.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said he was optimistic that a deal could be reached by July to relaunch the stalled Doha round of trade talks aimed at slashing subsidies, import tariffs and other barriers to global commerce.

“Doha remains America’s top trade priority,” Zoellick said. “President Bush has instructed me to spare no effort to accomplish this end.”

Brazil, which heads the so-called G20 group of developing nations, also said progress had been made.

“I sense a positive movement of all major actors and it makes me optimistic,” Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said.

The G20 agreed Friday to team up with Australia, Canada and the rest of the 17-member Cairns group of agricultural exporters to draft proposals for

cuts in farm produce import tariffs—now the main obstacle to a new WTO deal.

Global trade relations were chilled by the collapse last September of the 147-member organization’s last formal ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

But they began to thaw this week after the European Union agreed in principle to scrap export subsidies on farm produce—blamed for hurting producers in poor countries—and dropped controversial demands for new global rules on investment, competition and government procurement.

The United States has already signaled readiness to scrap its own much smaller export subsidies and trade-distorting export credits, but both Washington and Brussels have stressed that the concessions are conditional on poorer countries agreeing to open their own markets.

Speaking hours before the joint G20-Cairns group initiative was announced, Zoellick called on developing countries to move beyond the subsidies issue and “look at what we can do together on market access.”

trib graduation ad

United States

Supreme Court won't block gay marriages

By DENISE LAVOIE
AP WRITER

BOSTON (AP)—The Supreme Court refused Friday to block the nation's first state-sanctioned gay marriages from taking place here starting next week.

The justices declined without comment to intervene and block clerks from issuing marriage licenses to gay couples in Massachusetts. The state's highest court had ruled in November that the state Constitution allows gay couples to marry, and declared that the process would begin Monday.

The Supreme Court's deci-

sion, in an emergency appeal filed Friday by gay marriage opponents, does not address the merits of the claim that the state Supreme Judicial Court overstepped its bounds with the landmark decision.

A stay had been sought by a coalition of state lawmakers and conservative activists. The stay request had been filed with Supreme Court Justice David Souter, a Massachusetts native who handles appeals from the region. He referred the matter to the full nine-member court.

Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, which

sought the stay, said he was disappointed by the ruling. He is still looking forward to arguing the case next month before the federal appeals court, and then this fall before the Supreme Court.

Advocates for same-sex couples were relieved to hear the Supreme Court declined to intervene.

"Couples who aren't tied in to the recent legal and legislative actions have been nervous wrecks about whether they could marry starting Monday," said Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. "Now they can all breathe a sigh of relief."

A federal judge ruled against a coalition of state lawmakers and conservative activists, including groups in Boston, Michigan, Florida and Mississippi, on Thursday. The Boston-based 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision Friday, setting up the Supreme Court appeal. The appeals court agreed to hear arguments on the request to bar same-sex unions in June, after several weeks of legal gay marriages.

"This is a setback. This is certainly not the end of the road," Staver said, adding that the Supreme Court rarely issues

emergency injunctions. "We're going to continue to the next step, and after that, we look forward to arguing the case before the Supreme Court, whether we win or lose—that's where the case will ultimately end."

Mary Bonauto, the lead attorney for the seven same-sex couples who sued the state for the right to marry, said she was relieved, but not surprised.

"Reduced to its essence, this has always been a case where people unhappy with the court ruling were trying to dress it up in a federal constitutional claim that Massachusetts was a tyranny," Bonauto said.

But all the SJC did in its ruling, she said, "was what courts have been doing for hundreds of years ... reviewing laws for compliance with the Constitution and saying when laws deny basic rights to group of people."

Staver had told justices in a filing that they were not asking the Supreme Court "to take any position on the highly politicized and personally charged issue of same-sex marriage."

Instead, Staver wrote, they wanted the court to consider whether the Massachusetts judges wrongly redefined marriage. That task should be handled by elected legislators, he said.



EN MEMORIAM

Family members and friends of Nicholas Berg arrive for a memorial service at the Keshet Israel Congregation synagogue in West Chester, Pa., Friday, May 14, 2004. Berg, who was beheaded in Iraq, was remembered as adventurous and caring at the private memorial, friends and family said. Chester County Commissioner Andrew Dinniman said about 500 people attended the service, including Berg's friends from high school and college, and past teachers. His father, brother and sister spoke, and the rabbi who presided over the ceremony read words written by Berg's mother.

Lawyer: England ostracized at Fort Bragg

KEYSER, W.Va. (AP)—The Army reservist whose leering poses with Iraqi inmates have become the most notorious images of the prison-abuse scandal is living a solitary existence at Fort Bragg, where other soldiers avoid her, the woman's attorney said Friday.

Pfc. Lynndie England is "stressed out and overwhelmed," said family attorney Roy Hardy, who speaks with the 21-year-old soldier nearly every day.

"She feels like she's being isolated at Fort Bragg," he said. "She's almost an object of curiosity."

England is reluctant to enter common areas at the base or to socialize. She does her daily physical training alone, Hardy said.

"She's the poster girl," Hardy said. "When somebody does a cartoon, she's in it. When somebody does a skit on 'Saturday Night Live,' she's in it."

As of Friday, England's legal team had received no word from the military on its request that she be allowed to go home this weekend to visit family. Hardy expected the request to be denied.

Maj. Rich Patterson, a spokesman for the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, said Thursday that England is not restricted to Fort Bragg and may travel off base as long as she reports for work as "a personnel administrative specialist" with the 16th Military Police Brigade.

Because military officials have distanced themselves, "other soldiers aren't going to befriend her," Hardy said.

England is among seven soldiers from the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company who are charged with putting naked Iraqis at

the Abu Ghraib prison into sexually humiliating poses and photographing them.

She faces a court-martial on charges that include conspiracy to maltreat prisoners and assault consummated by battery. If convicted, she would face punishment ranging from a reprimand to more than 15 years in prison.

England and her attorneys contend soldiers were ordered to pose for the photos, which were to be used to elicit information from other prisoners. Hardy said those who issued the orders "have now melted away."

"People keep asking the question, 'Why didn't she refuse the order?'" Hardy said. "We're told in basic training, you can refuse an illegal order. But if you're wrong, you could still be court-martialed."



England

Net child porn probe leads to 65 arrests

WASHINGTON (AP)—A nationwide inquiry into child pornography trafficking using Internet file-sharing networks has resulted in 1,000 investigations and at least 65 arrests, federal officials announced Friday.

The investigation centers on the growing use of "peer-to-peer," or P2P, networks that allow users to connect computers directly with one another to exchange files. That provides greater anonymity than traditional Internet servers that are easier to track.

"There are no free rides on

the information highway for traffickers of child pornography," Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

Agents from the Justice Department, FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, sometimes working undercover, have infiltrated many of the networks in the past few months to identify people involved in distribution of child pornography.

Charges against the 65 people arrested so far have included possession and distribution of child pornography and sexual abuse of children. The 1,000

investigations have involved more than 350 searches of computers and other property, officials said.

Sharman Networks, provider of the Kazaa P2P network, said in a statement that it helped federal investigators identify people who used Kazaa to distribute illicit materials.

"Our No. 1 priority is to help stop the spread of this scourge on Kazaa and to provide our users with technological solutions like our family filter to protect their families," the statements said.

Plane crashes in Maryland, killing pilot

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP)—A small plane crashed in a residential neighborhood just east of Baltimore-Washington International Airport Friday morning, killing the pilot, an airport spokesman said.

A search of the plane found only the pilot, and no one was injured on the ground, said Maj. Greg Shipley of the Maryland State Police.

Noting that the fuselage landed at the front door of a house, Shipley called it "nothing short of a miracle" that no one else was hurt.

Mike Doyle, 53, said the plane roared low over the neighborhood before it crashed about a block from his house, which is not in the usual flight path.

"He was probably 100 feet over the ground—so low it rattled the house," said Doyle, who was getting his three children off to school when the plane went down.

The plane took off from Philadelphia and was headed to BWI when it crashed about 7:25 a.m., said airport spokeswoman Cheryl Stewart. She said it was an MU2 "high-wing" turboprop plane.

The plane crashed in front of a home less than a half-mile from the nearest runway.

Hours after the crash, firefight-



The remains of a MU-2 "high-wing" turboprop plane lies scattered near a house in Linthicum, Md., Friday, May 14, 2004.

ers continued to spray foam on the wreckage to prevent a fire, firefighter John Scholz said. The plane lay in pieces, with the wings sheared off and the fuselage broken into pieces strewn over the home's driveway and yard.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were en route to the scene to begin an investigation.

The plane was one of 11

owned by Atlanta-based Epps Aviation that fly checks and other paperwork for banks in the Northeast, said owner and president Pat Epps. He said the pilot, Thomas F. Lennon of Drexel Hill, Pa., was in his 30s and was "very experienced."

"This is the first pilot we've lost in these 20-plus years we've been running this part of the business," Epps said.

United States

Life & Style

La Toya London's loss bewilders Idol fans

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Was La Toya London knocked off "American Idol" by a Hawaiian punch or something more sinister? Although "American Idol" contestant Jasmine Trias of Oahu, Hawaii, flubbed her performance this week, it was favorite London whom viewers sent packing.

An anguished "Why?" rose from the ranks of her fans and bewildered "American Idol" judges, as it did when another standout contestant, Jennifer Hudson, was booted off last month.

If Wednesday's results are an indication of the unpredictability of U.S. voters, Ralph Nader might consider measuring the Oval Office for new curtains.

Maybe it was simply the result of overwhelming Hawaii support for a native daughter. Others, however, raised the bleak possibility of racism or a misguided system that allows multiple votes.

Left standing in the Fox talent contest are Trias, Fantasia Barrino and Diana DeGarmo. The finale is May 25-26, when one singer wins the "Idol" crown and a record contract.

Acerbic judge Simon Cowell, who had called Tuesday's disco-song performance by Trias "really average karaoke," had suggested there was one

chance for her survival.

"You better hope that every household in Hawaii has at least five telephones, because you're going to need all the support you can get," Cowell told a tearful Trias.

When London ended up the loser, she exited with a poised, powerhouse rendition of the Barbra Streisand standard "Don't Rain on My Parade."

"I will see you again," she told the audience.

The most unsettling speculation centered on the possibility of racism, which was also raised when Hudson lost viewer support. Both London and Hudson are black.

Even pop star Elton John, who has participated in the show, said recently that he suspected racial bias was a factor in the voting.

In Internet chatter and conversation Thursday, fans of the show speculated that race may have been a factor in the first year's early elimination of Tamara Gray—and with the recent votes. Some said their opinions were unaltered by last season's victory by Ruben Studdard, who's black.

In contrast to the show's vote, an AOL online poll that attracted 300,000 votes this week had London the likely winner. Before Wednesday's show, 47 percent of the votes picked London as the next



Diana DeGarmo, left, Fantasia Barrino and Jasmine Trias, right, on American Idol. The finale is May 25-26, when one singer wins the "Idol" crown and a record contract.

"American Idol," followed by Barrino with 26 percent, DeGarmo with 21 percent and Trias with 6 percent.

It's unusual for the ongoing survey to be so out of whack with the show's results, said an AOL spokeswoman. In the week that Hudson was voted off, for example, she was ranked low in the online poll.

Fox, which releases scant voting

data, declined Thursday to provide a geographical breakdown on the count. That reticence, which once seemed merely coy, now looks obstinate and isn't helping to satisfy unhappy fans.

"It is rigged," one disgruntled person proclaimed in an online posting, dismissing Trias as untalented and lauding the so-called "three divas," Barrino, London and Hudson. The writer didn't

expand on who might be interfering with the vote, or why.

Others expressed concern about the voting system, which allows viewers to repeatedly call in for their favorite. The audience determines the contest's outcome, with the three-judge panel only providing commentary after having narrowed the field early in the contest.

"On voting, my cousins and I tried to vote for La Toya ... None of us were able to get through," one viewer said in an online posting.

Wrote another: "I've been saying this for sometime and now I am sure everyone will agree. The voting system is wrong. It should be one vote per phone or computer."

Others said they're intending to abandon the show because of the voting difficulty.

More theories abounded, including speculation that London's personality (one online posting chided her for a "cold demeanor") hurt, or that the talented Barrino and London somehow split the vote.

An "Idol" and La Toya fan from across the border, 34-year-old Rick Broadhead of Toronto worried Thursday that the show's credibility could be hurt if a lesser performer ultimately wins the title.

"I could see (judge) Randy Jackson walking away, saying, 'I don't want to be associated with this,'" Broadhead said.

Hawaii helps local girl prevail on 'Idol'

By RON STATON
AP WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Since she started competing on "American Idol," Jasmine Trias has ridden a wave of support in Hawaii from radio hosts, a TV news anchor, a newspaper and a congressman. But it looks like the support from regular Hawaii residents—those with telephones, anyway—is what's really paying off.

It appeared Trias would be knocked out of the competition after a mediocre performance earlier this week, but viewers sent favorite La Toya London packing instead.

Fantasia Barrino and Diana DeGarmo also were left standing. The finale is May 25—26, when one of the three singers wins the "Idol" crown and a record contract.

The mania surrounding the contest continued in Hawaii on Thursday, as fans greeted Trias at Honolulu's airport. Later, as she received a proclamation declaring it "Jasmine Trias Day," Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona told her that she has galvanized the state.

"You represent us very well," he said.

Trias told the crowd that she thought she was going to be eliminated Wednesday. Executive producer Simon Fuller said she had given farewell gifts to the staff.

One phone company's records might hold clues to the outcome.

Of the 29 states in Verizon's local territory, only New York and California logged more calls on its network than Hawaii after the show, a Verizon spokesman said Thursday. California and New York are among the most



Trias

populous states in the nation; Hawaii is among the least.

"We hear people say they have voted much more than 100 times," said Michael W. Perry, co-host of the top-rated morning radio show in Honolulu, which has taken up her cause. "For a lot of people it's a Tuesday night habit to see how many times they can get through."

It's possible there was a regional factor beyond state pride. Because of the time difference—Hawaii is six hours behind the East Coast—viewers might enjoy a less-crowded calling period to cast votes.

Judge Randy Jackson, who said after Wednesday's show that the results were a travesty, noted that Honolulu television newscasters have signed off with a reminder to vote for Trias. That brought an on-air retort from Joe Moore, news anchor at KHON, the Fox station that carries "American Idol."

"If Randy thinks I'm gonna stop telling people in Hawaii to support our local girl—Randy, you got another thing coming, dude."

The Honolulu Advertiser published its own full-page color ad seeking to boost her vote, and U.S. Rep. Ed Case urged support during a Tuesday night tribute in Washington to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

He ended his speech saying, "If you want to show your support for Asia Pacific Americans tonight, you know what number to call on what TV show right about now. Jasmine just finished singing."

Trias is of Filipino, Spanish and Chinese ancestry.

She said she felt "a little guilty" advancing in the competition after her performance was panned by the show's judges.

But judge Simon Cowell said he told her after the show, "Don't carry this load on you just because a better singer left the competition. You got more votes, that's American Idol."

Fans also turned out for the other two finalists as they returned home. In High Point, N.C., police estimated 3,000 fans showed up to show support for Barrino.

City officials gave her a key to the city, and proclamations of support were read from the High Point City Council and Guilford County Board of Commissioners.

In Snellville, Ga., hundreds of fans and friends packed a social hall to welcome DeGarmo. The 16-year-old singer was presented a key to her hometown and named "mayor for the day."

Cannes fest premieres Pitt epic 'Troy'

CANNES, France (AP)—Brad Pitt stormed Troy. Then he marched on Cannes.

"Troy," in which he plays Greek warrior Achilles, was the spectacle of the day at the Cannes Film Festival, where the movie screened Thursday amid its rollout to theaters this week.

Directed by Wolfgang Petersen ("The Perfect Storm," "Das Boot"), "Troy" is a new take on Homer's "The Iliad," which recounts the city's siege by a Greek army that sailed to retrieve Helen, queen of Sparta, who fled with her lover, Paris.

While rooted in ancient mythology, the story of a Western power waging war against an Eastern enemy remains relevant with the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, Pitt and his co-stars said at a Cannes news conference.

"There's no way around it. The themes Homer seemed to be getting at resonate today," Pitt said. He said the element he appreciates most in "The Iliad" is "this greater idea of a common humanity, and how do we get past these hatreds and resentments that build up between us?"

Pitt's Achilles is a vainglorious man who fights for his own renown and ponders whether his name might live on for centuries. The actor conceded that in today's celebrity culture, his own fame would vanish much more quickly.

One of Pitt's acting idols of the 1960s, Julie Christie, signed on to play Achilles' mother, which failed to impress some of his younger co-stars.

"They asked me who Julie Christie

is," Pitt said. "I think the point is it's all going down, it all fades, so enjoy it while you can."

"Troy" co-stars Orlando Bloom as Paris; Eric Bana as his brother, Trojan hero Hector; Peter O'Toole as their father, King Priam; German actress Diane Kruger as Helen; Sean Bean as wily Greek leader Odysseus; Brian Cox as Greek King Agamemnon; and Brendan Gleeson as his brother, Menelaus, Helen's cuckolded husband.

With 4,000 reporters on hand, Cannes has become a prime zone for studios to showcase movies about to hit theaters, giving the flicks a final surge of publicity. "Troy" opened Wednesday and Thursday in some European markets. By Friday, when it debuts in the United States, the film will be playing in dozens of countries.

German director Petersen notes "Troy" was inspired by "The Iliad" but that the filmmakers took liberties to hold the movie to a manageable two hours, 40 minutes, and make it credible to today's audiences.

The film drops the Greek gods as active meddlers in the actions of humanity, which movie-goers likely would have found laughable, Petersen said.

"We decided to go with human beings as they are," Petersen said. "They make the decisions."

Some events in the 10-year siege of Troy, which culminates with the Trojan horse concealing Greek troops who begin sacking the city, seem condensed. "Troy" also presents a harsh fate for power-hungry Agamemnon different from his tragic homecoming in Greek mythology.

Beyonce, mother starting fashion label

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce's lavish wardrobe is about to get even bigger: The singer-actress now has her own fashion label.

Beyonce and her mother, Tina Knowles, who already styles many of her daughter's on-and-off-stage outfits, announced a joint venture to create a contemporary women's brand with Arthur and Jason Rabin, founders of manufacturer Wear Me Apparel/Kids Headquarters.

"My mother and I share a love of fashion and style, and with this brand we're going to be able to share our vision of what is truly beautiful," the Destiny's Child singer said in a statement this week. "Our line will consist of fashions that I enjoy wearing and I want them to

be appealing to my fans as well."

The name of the new brand has not yet been released.

Beyonce and Knowles will play an active role in the creative direction and inspiration for the collections while the Rabins will provide the infrastructure for licensing and brand management. The label's first sportswear collection should be in stores in 2005, with an eye toward eventually expanding into accessories, jewelry, lingerie and swimwear.

Childrenswear also is a future possibility, considering Kids Headquarters' background creating merchandise for Nickelodeon and The Walt Disney Co., along with Kenneth Cole, Timberland, Rocawear and Ecko Unlimited.

Beyonce performs on the stage during the Prince's Trust Urban Music Festival at Earl's Court in west London Saturday, May 8, 2004.

AP



Kelly Rowland, Roy Williams to wed

NEW YORK (AP)—Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child and Dallas Cowboys safety Roy Williams are getting hitched, Rowland's label, Columbia Records, announced Friday.

Rowland said she and her fiancé haven't set a date for the wedding. Williams proposed in New York on Monday, in a room filled with friends including fellow Destiny's Child singer Beyonce. The two, both 23, have been together about six months.

Rowland won a Grammy

last year for collaborating with Nelly on the hit "Dilemma" and released a solo album, "Simply Deep," in 2002. She, Beyonce and Michelle Williams are headed back to the studio next month to record a new Destiny's Child album.

Williams is going into his third season with the Cowboys and made the Pro-Bowl earlier this year. Last season he had 72 tackles, including 55 solo tackles, two sacks and two interceptions.

Miramax boss Weinstein writing memoirs

NEW YORK (AP)—Get ready for an earful—or at least an eyeful—from Harvey Weinstein. The famously bullish boss of Miramax Films is writing his memoirs. HarperCollins will publish the book, currently untitled, in 2006.

"Harvey is someone we read about every day. Now, in this book, we will read the true story behind Miramax's amazing success, as only Harvey can tell it," Jane Friedman, president and CEO of HarperCollins, said Thursday.

Financial terms weren't disclosed, but Weinstein will donate all profits to charity.

According to HarperCollins, "The memoir will trace the lives of the Weinstein brothers (Harvey and Bob) from their lower-middle class roots in Queens, New York, through

the founding of Miramax ... and will chronicle the premier independent movie studio's triumphant and sometimes turbulent history."

The 52-year-old Weinstein has released such Oscar-winning films as "The English Patient," "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in Love." But in an industry with a history of hot tempers, he's known for an especially short and heated

fuse, his outbursts documented in Peter Biskind's best-selling "Down and Dirty Pictures: Miramax, Sundance and the Rise of Independent Film."

Weinstein's latest controversy involves Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," which Miramax plans to distribute through a third party after its parent company, Walt Disney Co., refused to release it.



Weinstein

Girl regrets losing virginity to boy she does not trust

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My situation is a mess right now. I am not a virgin. I lost it to "Chuck," a guy I really love. One of my friends is very religious, and she always brags about being a virgin and puts me down.

Now I hear that Chuck has been sleeping with other girls. I was raised to believe that whomever you lose your virginity to, you stay with. I am embarrassed now, but I'm too insecure to leave him. I'm confused because Chuck says the girls are lying.

Also, I may be pregnant. What should I do?

MADE A MISTAKE IN CHICAGO



Dear Abby

DEAR MADE A MISTAKE: Having sex carries with it certain responsibilities, and one of them is knowing how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases or an unwanted pregnancy. You haven't said how old you are, but whatever your age, it's clear you have gotten in over your head.

Ideally, you should tell your mother what you have told me. If you don't feel close enough to her to do that, then confide in another trusted relative, or adult family friend or teacher. Do not put it off. You should be seen by a doctor to ascertain if you are, indeed, pregnant. If you are, you have some important decisions to make. If you aren't, you need to decide how you're going to prevent pregnancy in the future. In your case, I strongly advise abstinence.

True friends do not put each other down. They build each other up and support one another in time of need. This does not appear to be a description of your religious "friend." I wonder how she found out that you were no longer a virgin. Did you confide in her? Or did Chuck broadcast the news?

And while I'm on the subject of Chuck: Feeling embarrassed about losing your virginity is a poor reason to stay with him. Ask yourself: Is he good to you? Is he honest with you? Is he responsible? Do you have common interests? Does he want an exclusive relationship? It is important to be able to trust the person you're with, and if more than one girl claims to be involved with him, you should investigate further and be prepared to move on if he hasn't been truthful.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman who is finishing college. I have never had much of a personal life because my mother embarrasses me in front of the gentlemen I date.

I now have the opportunity to move to another town where my mentally challenged son is in a group home. For the first time in our lives we can be together as our own little family unit.

Mother is now talking about moving herself and my sister to the same town. I don't have a life because of her, and now I never will. What should I do?

SMOTHERED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SMOTHERED: You're an adult. It's time to "un-mother" yourself. Make the move, form your family unit, make friends and a life of your own. If your mother is determined to make the move, you can't prevent it. But no law says you have to introduce her to the men you date or include her in your social life if she embarrasses you in front of others. That's her attempt to control you—and you can remedy that by "flying the coop" emotionally as well as physically. If you feel unable to loosen the family tie, then I recommend counseling.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Spector arrested after scuffle

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP)—Phil Spector, who is awaiting trial on a murder charge, was arrested Friday after getting into a scuffle with his chauffeur at the music producer's mansion.

Both men were arrested for investigation of misdemeanor battery. Police arrived at the home around 10:15 a.m. to find them attempting to place each other under citizen's arrest, police Lt. Elliot Kase said.

"They had an issue over their business relationship," Kase said. "We're not exactly sure what the issue was, but

they didn't seem to come to agreement. It was mutual combat, so they chose to arrest each other."

Spector was charged last year with murdering actress Lana Clarkson, who was found shot in his mansion on Feb. 2, 2003. He has denied the murder allegation and has suggested the woman killed herself. The case has yet to go to trial.

Famous for his "Wall of Sound" recording technique, Spector changed the way pop records were produced while bringing fame to groups like the Ronettes and the Crystals.



Spector

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Woods takes one-shot lead at Byron Nelson

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP GOLF WRITER



IRVING, Texas (AP)—The position atop the leaderboard should be familiar to Tiger Woods. So should the company he'll be keeping at the Byron Nelson Championship. Woods sprinkled in a few birdies with some solid par saves for a 3-under 67 on Friday at cool, blustery Cottonwood Valley and took a one-shot lead for the second week in a row. The surprise is who will join him on the first tee Saturday afternoon—47-year-old Mark O'Meara, his best buddy on tour.

Instead of a practice round at a major championship or a casual round at Isleworth when they're home in Florida, they will be in the final group of a \$5.8 million tournament that means something to both for different reasons.

Woods, the No. 1 player in the world, has come under severe scrutiny for a game that has produced only one victory this year and no majors in his last seven tries.

"I've always felt comfortable when I've been in the lead," Woods said, although he lost the 36-hole lead last week at the Wachovia Championship, ending a five-year streak of winning when he led going into the weekend.

O'Meara, who had a 4-under

66, has not won on the PGA Tour since the '98 British Open and is playing this year on a one-time exemption for being in the top 25 in career money. Even though he won earlier this year in the Dubai Desert Classic—a field that included Woods and Ernie Els—there is no substitute for winning at home.

"It would be huge," O'Meara said. "The last 2 1/2 years, it has been a battle of not playing well, a battle of not putting well, a battle of not being excited about being on the road. It would be a thrill to have a chance to win come Sunday afternoon."

Woods was at 8-under 132, his best start at the EDS Byron Nelson Championship since a 64-64 in 1997 when he won.

Sergio Garcia, who finished third in his PGA Tour debut at the Byron Nelson five years ago, birdied three of his last four holes on the TPC at Las Colinas to salvage a 68 and was in a large group at 134 that included Peter Lonard (70), Jerry Kelly (68) and Jonathan Byrd (67).

Defending champion Vijay Singh also made a nice recovery with birdies on three of his last four holes at Cottonwood Valley. He finished with a 67 and was at 135, only three shots out of the lead.

"I'm feeling good with the putter, which is something new for me," Singh said.



Masters champion Phil Mickelson had a couple of streaks end - he shot a 2-over 72, ending his run of 21 consecutive rounds at par or better; and at 1-over 141 he missed the cut for the first time this year.

O'Meara's latest battle has been getting caught in the criticism of Woods. The fervent analysis of Woods' swing has led some to speculate that O'Meara - and his Dallas-based swing coach, Hank Haney - have had too much influence on Woods' game. Haney again followed Woods during his second round, and Woods went with Haney to his club (Vaquero) to hit balls after the round.

"Everyone thinks he can't play a lick anymore ... that he's messing around with his swing, he's doing this, doing that, I'm teaching him, he's playing bad because I'm teaching him," O'Meara said. "I can only tell you that you're barking up the wrong tree. You don't need to get him more riled up than he already is."

Woods had reason to get riled up Friday, although he never would have guessed it.

Tiger Woods takes off his hat to the gallery's applause after he finished play for the day on the Cottonwood Course during the second round of the Byron Nelson golf Championship in Irving, Texas, Friday, May 14, 2004.

AP

Cardinals give Marlins' Josh Beckett hard time



ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals roughed up World Series MVP Josh Beckett on and got dominant pitching from Jason Marquis in a 6-3 victory Friday night over the Florida Marlins.

Ray Lankford homered, Hector Luna had two RBI singles and Jim Edmonds doubled twice, drove in a run and scored twice to help the Cardinals win for the fourth time in five games. Beckett (3-3), who shut out the Yankees in Game 6 to clinch the World Series title, gave up six runs on nine hits in six innings.

Braves 2, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, J.D. Drew and Chipper Jones hit consecutive homers in the eighth inning in support of Horacio Ramirez.

Drew and Jones connected off Luis Vizcaino (0-2), who started the eighth in relief of Victor Santos. Drew has homered in three straight games.

Ramirez (1-3) allowed five hits in eight innings while striking out five and walking three. John Smoltz worked the for his sixth save in seven tries.

Mets 8, Astros 3

In Houston, Cliff Floyd hit a grand slam and Mike Piazza

had his seventh homer of the season for New York, which has won eight of 12.

Steve Trachsel (4-3) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings, and Ricky Bottalico and Orber Moreno combined for one-hit relief.

Roy Oswalt (2-2) struck out seven in seven innings, giving up five runs and seven hits as Houston lost its third straight.

Cubs 6, Padres 1

In San Diego, Sammy Sosa homered to tie Mike Schmidt for ninth place on the career list with 548, and Greg Maddux pitched eight strong innings to lead Chicago over San Diego.

Cubs leadoff batter Jose Macias hit a bases-loaded triple into the left-field corner with one out in the ninth. He also tripled in the eighth and scored. Macias and Moises Alou each had three hits.

Expos 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Orlando Cabrera's ninth-inning single sent Montreal to a win over Arizona.

Brian Schneider hit his fourth home run for the Expos, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Endy Chavez hit a two-out double in the ninth off Jose Valverde (0-1), and Jose Vidro was

walked intentionally.

Cabrera then hit a shot just under the glove of third baseman Chad Tracy, scoring Chavez for a 4-3 Montreal lead.

Reds 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Paul Wilson won his fifth straight decision and Cincinnati capitalized on a wild outing by Kazuhisa Ishii to beat Los Angeles.

Wilson (5-0) pitched seven innings in his eighth start of the season, allowing a run and five hits. It's the first time in his career that he's won five consecutive decisions.

Todd Jones pitched a scoreless eighth, and Danny Graves got his major league-leading 15th save in 18 attempts.

Pirates 4, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Daryle Ward tied it with a two-run homer, then singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lead Pittsburgh past San Francisco.

Ward connected for his second homer in two days in the seventh following a triple by Jack Wilson. In the eighth, Ward lined an RBI single off Felix Rodriguez (1-3).

Rob Mackowiak homered for the Pirates leading off the ninth.

Tigers 7, Rangers 1

In Detroit, Gary Knotts did

not allow a hit until the fifth inning in his first start of the season, and Brandon Inge and Omar Infante hit consecutive homers in the second for the Detroit Tigers win over the Texas Rangers.

Knotts (1-0) retired the first eight batters he faced, and Esteban Yan didn't allow a hit in four innings for his second save.

Red Sox 9, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Brian Daubach hit a tiebreaking double in a six-run eighth inning to lead Boston over Toronto.

Boston, which had lost four of its previous five games, sent 10 batters to the plate in the eighth. Kerry Ligtenberg (1-1) didn't get an out in the inning, allowing five straight batters to reach.

Phillies 6, Rockies 4

In Denver, Pat Burrell homered and drove in four runs, Bobby Abreu also connected and Philadelphia beat struggling Colorado.

Eric Milton (4-0) was helped by three double plays, and the Phillies improved to 6-1 on their 10-game road trip.

Yankees 9, Mariners 5

In New York, Mike Mussina labored through six innings, but New York took advantage of a wild night by Seattle's pitchers.

Tony Clark drove in the go-ahead run in the fifth for the Yankees and Bernie Williams broke open the game with a two-run double in the seventh. The first four Seattle pitchers combined for 10 walks—four with the bases loaded—made two errors and a run-scoring wild pitch.

Indians 8, Devil Rays 7, 10 innings

In Cleveland, after Julio Lugo hit a tying, two-run homer for Tampa Bay in the ninth inning, Casey Blake homered in the 10th for Cleveland.

Blake homered off Lance Carter (1-2) leading off the inning. Tampa Bay has lost seven of eight and has not won consecutive games all year.

Rick White (1-0) pitched one inning for his first win since July 23, when he was with the Chicago White Sox.

Athletics 6, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Oakland's Tim Hudson pitched eight strong inning and moved into second place in career winning percentage.

Hudson (4-1) improved to 84-34 for a .712 winning per-

centage, second only to Spud Chandler (.717) among pitchers with 50 or more wins.

Angels 10, Orioles 9, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Chone Figgins hit a grand slam for his first major league homer and drove in a career-high six runs, including a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning, to lead Anaheim.

Rafael Palmeiro hit his 534th home run, tying Jimmie Foxx for 12th on the career list, and the Orioles rallied from a 9-6 deficit in the ninth against Troy Percival (2-0), who blew a save. Scot Shields pitched the 10th for his third save.

Twins 3, White Sox 2

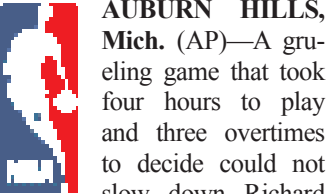
In Chicago, Jacque Jones went 3-for-3 and tied the game with an RBI single, and Lew Ford drove in the go-ahead run to rally Minnesota.

Aaron Rowand homered for Chicago, but the White Sox managed only two hits in the final five innings as they lost for the sixth time in nine games.

Protecting a 2-1 lead in the eighth, Damaso Marte (1-2) walked Doug Mientkiewicz and Torii Hunter with one out. Jones singled, scoring Mientkiewicz to tie the game at 2.

Nets defeat Pistons 127-120 in triple OT

By LARRY LAGE
AP SPORTS WRITER



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—A grueling game that took four hours to play and three overtimes to decide could not slow down Richard Jefferson. He scored 18 of his 31 points after regulation Friday night to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 127-120 victory over Detroit and a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Detroit's Chauncey Billups, who scored 31 points, forced the first overtime when he stepped just over halfcourt and hoisted a shot that went off the backboard and in at the buzzer.

Reserve forward Brian Scalabrine had a career-high 17 points and went 4-for-4 from 3-point range for the Nets, including one that gave New Jersey a 122-118 lead with about 40 seconds left in the third overtime.

"I'm not surprised, basketball players always believe in themselves," Scalabrine said. "It was just great to be a part of an unbelievable game like this. Every time we went to another OT, and it seemed like there were six of them, I thought 'Great! I get to play five more minutes.'"

It was the fourth playoff game to go three or more overtimes, and the first since Phoenix beat Chicago 129-121 in Game 3 of the 1993 Finals.

Game 6 is Sunday in New Jersey and if necessary, Game 7 will be Thursday back in suburban Detroit.

History is on the Nets' side. Out of 115 best-of-seven series that have been tied at 2, the winner of Game 5 has advanced 96 times (83 percent).

If the two-time defending Eastern Conference champion Nets win one of the next two games, they will join just seven other teams to win a best-of-seven series after trailing 0-2.

The game was close, unlike the first four.

The Pistons won Games 1 and 2 by a combined 37 points and New Jersey won the next two by a total of 33. For just the third time in a best-of-seven series, the first four games decided by 15 points or more.

With four players on each team having fouled out, Scalabrine, a relative unknown, came through for the Nets.

Scalabrine scored a total of six points in the first four games of the series, and no more than 16 in his three NBA seasons.

After Jefferson's three-point play gave New Jersey a six-point lead in the third overtime, the Pistons pulled within one with 1:06 left.

Then Scalabrine made his fourth 3-pointer to give New Jersey the 122-118 lead.

Billups missed a 3-pointer that would have tied the game—again—with 11 seconds left.

Kenyon Martin, who fouled out, had 22 points and nine rebounds. Kidd had 16 points and eight assists, and played 57 of 63 minutes. Kerry Kittles scored 20 points, and reserve Lucious Harris added 12.

"This only counts as one win,

but it was a special one," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "Our team won this game with will and heart."

Billups was the only Pistons starter who didn't foul out.

"There were so many overtimes, I don't know which overtime was which," Billups said.

Rasheed Wallace and Tayshaun Prince each scored 18 points, while Ben Wallace had 16 points and 11 rebounds. Richard Hamilton had his first playoff double-double with 11 points and 11 assists.

"I'm not drained. I'm proud just to be a part of a game like that," Pistons coach Larry Brown said. "I'm disappointed that we lost.

"We got to win a game on the road. It's been done before."

Timberwolves 86, Kings 74 to

In Minneapolis, with Latrell Sprewell slashing and scoring, the Minnesota Timberwolves moved within one win of the Western Conference finals. Sprewell had 34 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Timberwolves, who beat the Sacramento Kings to take a 3-2 lead in their conference semifinal series.

Game 6 is Sunday in Sacramento. Game 7, if necessary, would be Wednesday in Minneapolis. But the Kings will have to shoot and play a lot better if they want to force a Game 7.

Brad Miller was ejected late in the third quarter without scoring, and Chris Webber labored for 13 points on 5-for-16 shoot-

ing. Leading scorer Peja Stojakovic disappeared once again, going 0-for-4 in the second half and finishing with 12 points for the Kings.

Sacramento's much-celebrated offense missed two-thirds of its shots—going 27-for-81.

Much of the credit goes to Minnesota's defense. After a woe-ful performance in Game 4, the Wolves were aggressive and tenacious at both ends of the court.

Kevin Garnett, who had seven points, three rebounds and seven turnovers in the first half, wound up with 23 points and 12 rebounds. He helped hound Webber and Miller on defense, too. The pair combined for 48 points in Game 4.

The series has become increasingly testy in the last two games, and Miller, one of Sacramento's most emotional

players, lost his temper late in the third quarter.

Minnesota's Darrick Martin collided with Miller while fighting through a screen and hit him in the midsection. Martin fell face-first to the floor, and an enraged Miller went over and shoved him hard in the back. Referee Steve Javie immediately gave both players a technical foul and ejected both.

Sam Cassell had only three points and seven assists for the Wolves, but Sprewell more than made up the difference.

He hit back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the third to give Minnesota a 10-point cushion, and his last long-range shot gave the Wolves an 84-71 lead with 1:33 left.

Webber, whose game-high 28 points and tight defense on Garnett were keys to Sacramento's

series-tying victory in Game 4, had a horrible first half.

He missed all five shots he took, committed three fouls and didn't score. Twenty seconds into the third quarter, Webber picked up his fourth foul and gave referee Derrick Stafford a long, bewildered glance.

Midway through the third quarter, he hobbled off with tightness in his right calf before returning three minutes later.

Any advantage Minnesota gained by shutting down one-third of Sacramento's top three was negated by Garnett's struggles and Cassell's silence.

Cassell picked up two quick fouls in the first quarter and played only 11 minutes in the first half. He grimaced when he was on the court and wore a bulky wrap on his lower back when he sat on the bench.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS

Montreal 4, Arizona 3
Cincinnati 2, Los Angeles 1
Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 2

New Jersey 127, Detroit 120, 3OT,
New Jersey leads series 3-2
Minnesota 86, Sacramento 74,
Minnesota leads series 3-2

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	14	.600	—
Boston	21	15	.583	1-2
Baltimore	17	15	.531	2 1-2
Toronto	15	21	.417	6 1-2
Tampa Bay	10	24	.294	10 1-2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Minnesota	21	13	.618	—
Chicago	19	15	.559	2
Detroit	17	18	.486	4 1-2
Cleveland	15	19	.441	6
Kansas City	11	22	.333	9 1-2

WEST DIVISION

Anaheim	24	12	.667	—
Texas	21	14	.600	2 1-2
Oakland	18	17	.514	5 1-2
Seattle	12	23	.343	11 1-2

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

Boston 9, Toronto 3
Detroit 7, Texas 1
N.Y. Yankees 9, Seattle 5
Cleveland 8, Tampa Bay 7,
10 innings
Anaheim 10, Baltimore 9,
10 innings
Minnesota 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Oakland 6, Kansas City 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION

Florida	20	15	.571	—
Philadelphia	18	15	.545	1
New York	17	19	.472	3 1-2
Atlanta	16	18	.471	3 1-2
Montreal	11	25	.306	9 1-2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Houston	21	14	.600	—
Chicago	20	15	.571	1
St. Louis	19	17	.528	2 1-2
Cincinnati	18	17	.514	3
Milwaukee	18	17	.514	3
Pittsburgh	15	18	.455	5

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles	22	12	.647	—
San Diego	21	15	.583	2
San Francisco	15	21	.417	8
Colorado	14	20	.412	8
Arizona	14	21	.400	8 1-2

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta 2, Milwaukee 0
N.Y. Mets 8, Houston 3
St. Louis 6, Florida 3
Philadelphia 6, Colorado 4
Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 1

Montreal 4, Arizona 3
Cincinnati 2, Los Angeles 1
Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 2

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL-Suspended Houston manager Jimmy Williams for one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for prolonged arguing and inappropriate conduct in a game on May 8 and suspended Pittsburgh manager Lloyd McClendon for one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for inappropriate conduct in a game on May 9.

CLEVELAND INDIANS-Placed RHP Jeff D'Amico on the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Jack Cressend for assignment. Recalled LHP Cliff Bartosh from Buffalo of the IL. Purchased the contract of RHP Matt Miller from Buffalo.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS-Activated RHP Bob File from the 15-day DL and optioned him to Syracuse of the IL.

CINCINNATI REDS-Activated C Jason LaRue from the 15-day DL. Optioned C Corky Miller to Louisville.

NEW YORK METS-Announced RHP Grant Roberts cleared waivers and was sent outright to the Norfolk of the IL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES-Placed LHP Billy Wagner on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 7. Purchased the contract of RHP Brian Powell from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre of the IL.

NFL

NEW YORK GIANTS-Signed K Bill Gramatica.

COLLEGE

PRESBYTERIAN-Named Jessica Vanco women's basketball coach.

ST. FRANCIS, PA.-Named John Pigatti and R.C. Kehoe men's assistant basketball coaches.

SOUTH FLORIDA-Named Julius Allen men's assistant basketball coach.

UCLA-Named Petrina Long associate athletic director-senior women's administrator.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

MASTER'S LEAGUE

Name	W	L	G
Mhel's Lucky 7	118	86	204
Oleai White Horses	116	88	204
Gardenia 1001 Proffers	108	96	204
Gardenia Strikers	105	99	204
Aliviera Wild Boyz	103	101	204
Oleai Celebrities	62	142	204

RAINBOW A LEAGUE

Sunset Knights	111	69	180
Mhel's Lucky 7 Aces	110	70	180
VFW Major Leak	101	79	180
Sandy's White Horse	86	94	180
Aliviera Destroyers	84	96	180
Tambayan Hustlers	48	132	180

VOLCANO A LEAGUE

Da Place Blue Diamond	105	45	150
Sunset 151 Proffers	94	56	150
Oleai Beer Chugging Hoz	64	71	135
Aliviera Wild Boyz	68	82	150
Bud's Tribes Hearts	29	106	135

FANIHI DIVISION

Sunset 80 Proffers	109	71	180
Bud's Bullseye	104	76	180
Gardenia Sunsetters	100	80	180
Samurai	88	92	180
Bud's Got Pugua	71	109	180
Tambayan Boomboom	51	129	180

FLAME TREE DIVISION

Aliviera Invaders	115	65	180
VFW Boyz Gadai	109	71	180
Bud's Balite Boys	98	82	180
Da Place Terminators	83	97	180
Bud's Super Lolo	76	104	180
Oleai Green Flash	38	142	180

TYPHOON TUE B LEAGUE

Vargas Snipers	119	61	180
Bud's Planters	111	69	180
Sunset 101 Proffers	104	76	180
Da Place Boys	86	94	180
Gardenia Grillers	64	116	180
AJ's Beefeater	45	135	180

TSUNAMI TUE B DIVISION

Aliviera Java Boyz	113	67	180
Aliviera Balite Boys	105	75	180
Aliviera Eagle Troops	97	84	180
Bud's B Tribe Hearts	96	84	180
Da Esta Later	55	125	180
Bud's Tiger Claws	48	132	180

C LEAGUE

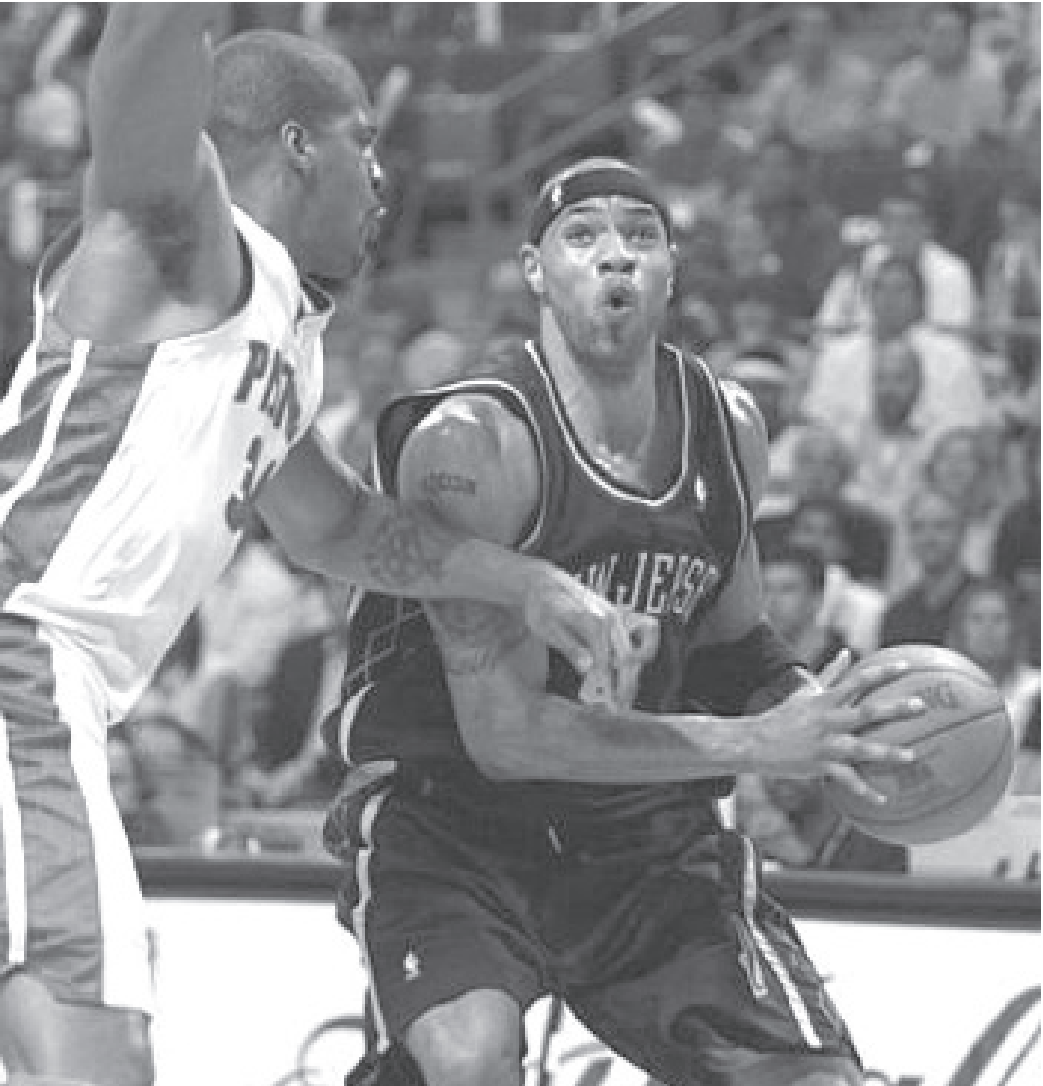
Aliviera Bento Boys	115	65	180
Tambayan Got Beer	101	79	180
VFW Clubmates	85	95	180
Bud's Bad Company	83	97	180
Superfriends	79	101	180
Vargas Hot Shots	77	103	180

LADIES LEAGUE

Da Eliminators	120	60	180
The Hurricanes	106	74	180
Bud's Yahoo's	100	80	180
Sam's Angels	83	97	180
Da Place Shooters	69	111	180
Da Senoritas	62	118	180

MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE

Jhun/Mara	94	38	132
Gary/Myma	74	47	121
Jackie/John	66	55	121
Eagle	71	61	132
Jake/Ruth	69	63	132
Mary-Lois/Lodrigo	0	132	132



AP

New Jersey Nets' Kenyon Martin, right, maneuvers for a shot against Detroit Pistons' Corliss Williamson during the first quarter, Friday, May 14, 2004, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Week in Sports



SHAN SEMAN

Ryan Baron won three gold medals during the track meet.



SHAN SEMAN

Reylyn Sapong of Koblerville Elementary School receives her gold medal in the 100m event.



SHAN SEMAN

Whispering Palms relay teams try to catch up.

Baptizing the new track

By **MARK RABAGO**
REPORTER

The new track and field facility at the Oleai Sports Complex had its baptism of fire last May 8 when schools from all over the CNMI competed in the 2004 All Schools Track and Field Championships.

In the team category, Dan Dan Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High, and Marianas High School blazed the trail topping their respective age groups. In the individual race, Ryan Baron of Whispering Palms School and Jovannie Sablan were named most outstanding athletes of the meet.

There was also a lot of basketball action last week. Toyota Ol'Aces I, for instance, successfully defended its BANMI Budweiser Cup crown after sweeping APC Brothers in the best-of-three finals.

Mobil co-ed league action, meanwhile, saw Dai-Ichi Hotel and Toyota advance to the final four after defeating Hyatt and CUC, respectively, last Tuesday.

In baseball, the Brewers handed winless D-9ers a humiliating 33-3 defeat in the Saipan Major League last Wednesday. The Coors Light Co-ed Beach Volleyball League also entered its second week with nine teams competing for this year's coveted championship.



SHAN SEMAN

Katie Delos Reyes is all emotion in the softball throw.



Marianas High School girls 4x100 relay team in action during the All Schools Track and Field Championships last May 8.
SHAN SEMAN



Oscar Sablan of CUC had a monster game before fouling out in regulation in the game against Toyota.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

Toyota's Kevin Cequena sizzled for 31 points in his team's 97-95 overtime win against CUC last Tuesday in the Mobil league.

John Santos poured in 16 points plus superb defense in Ol'Aces I's title-clinching win against Brothers last Wednesday.

MARK RABAGO



Cougars teammates Jhun Estolas, left, and Pete Lizama give each other fives after conspiring in the last play of their 73-71 win over Diablo in the battle for third.

MARK RABAGO



APC Brothers 6'4" tower Oscar Ada had nine points and a breakaway dunk in the team's 96-97 loss in Game 2 against 2004 Budweiser Cup champion Toyota Ol'Aces I.
MARK RABAGO



Woods takes one-shot lead at Byron Nelson

The position atop the leaderboard should be familiar to Tiger Woods. So should the company he'll be keeping at the Byron Nelson Championship.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Baptizing the new track

The new track and field facility at the Oleai Sports Complex had its baptism of fire last May 8 when schools from all over the CNMI competed in the 2004 All Schools Track and Field Championships.

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28 SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Toyota Ol'Aces I celebrate after sweeping archrival APC Brothers in the best-of-three finals of the 2004 Budweiser Cup.



Finals MVP Peter Camacho was the glue that held the team in the championship.

Sweeter the second time around

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

For Toyota Ol'Aces I playing-coach Elias Rangamar winning the championship of the 2004 Budweiser Cup brought out the competitive juices of his team, which lay dormant after the BANMI league was canceled a year ago.

Clinching the title against bitter rival APC Brothers also couldn't have been sweeter for Rangamar, especially after the spitfire guard didn't appreciate how players from the other side celebrated when he fell hard on the floor in Ol'Aces I's 93-98 loss in their second round match last April 14.

"I was really hoping to meet them [Brothers] in the championship. It's a good rivalry and we [Ol'Aces I] always love a great series. We got the better of them in the first round and they got back at us in the second. The finals is a good way to finally settle the score," he said prior to the start of the best-of-three championship.

In Game 1 last Monday, Ol'Aces I dominated play after a nip-and-tuck first quarter and leaned on a barrage of 3-pointers by Rangamar in the fourth and key steals and putbacks by reserve center Edsel Mendoza in the dying seconds to win 111-108.

Despite the virtuoso performance in crunch time, Mendoza still refused to take credit for the victory pointing to his teammates for making things happen.

"I'm getting old, man. Good thing Peter [Ca-



Elias Saralu of Ol'Aces I and Jeff Diaz (7) of Brothers hug each other after Game 2.

macho] got things going for us offensively and coach [Rangamar] bombed away from outside in the payoff period. I just wanted to make plays and luckily I was able to contribute," he said.

Even starting center Abong Camacho was hats off to Mendoza's endgame heroics. He was heard telling the 6'1" many-time national player after the game, "Thanks Ed for bailing me out," after Camacho was rendered ineffective in the second half by Brothers' swarming defense.

In Game 2 Wednesday, Brothers exploded from

the gates eager to square the series at a game apiece. After leading by only 4 points after the first, Brothers opened up double-digit leads in the second.

But all of a sudden, the game turned physical. Brothers, an emotional team according to Rangamar, got caught trying to win another kind of game against the savvy Ol'Aces I crew and paid dearly for it.

After leading 51-43 at the half, Brothers saw their vaunted fastbreak game fall into pieces in the third quarter. Peter and Abong Camacho also flexed their muscles in the period and this plus Ol'Aces I's scrambling defense combined to snuff out Brothers and Ol'Aces I took a commanding 77-68 edge after three quarters of play.

In the fourth, Brothers roller-coaster effort continued as they came within a point of Ol'Aces I's lead only to fall back by 8 again minutes later.

With the game in the balance, Brothers compounded their woes when Oscar Ada and Ed Diaz all together missed nine free throw attempts in the fourth. But through all that, Brothers still had plenty of chances to force the game into OT.

Finally a defensive lapse that left Ol'Aces I inside operator Romeo Iginoef alone for an uncontested layup drove the final nail on Brothers' coffin.

And although a fight between Abong Camacho and Brothers' ace Freddie Peliseman marred an otherwise classic ballgame, there was still no denying that Ol'Aces I's back-to-back championships was a feat the team fought hard for and truly deserved.

"That's all part of the game. It's a bit sad that it all had come to that but a championship is

a championship," said Rangamar immediately after the ballgame.

Peter Camacho also congratulated Brothers for a good series. "They didn't make it easy for us. They had us sweat for this championship. Hey, I give them credit they played hard. This is a total team effort. We came out strong and decided to play defense."

During the awards ceremony immediately following Game 2, MARPAC representative Nathan Sablan handed out team and individual trophies.

Diablo scoring machine Dave Sablan was named 2004 Budweiser Cup scoring champion, Tony Diaz of Brothers was adjudged regular season MVP, while Peter Camacho was finals most valuable player.

Lebwel won the sportsmanship award, Diablo took the third runner-up trophy, followed by Cougars who got third place and \$200 in cash. Brothers won the second place trophy and \$300 in cash, while Ol'Aces I took home both the pennant championship and the overall title that came with a \$1,000 prize money.

Rangamar said the money will be used to accrue the expenses of Tinian residents John Santos and Keith Nabors, pay for the victory party and will be donated to the Division of Sports and Recreation.

Other members of the team are Alfred Celes, Mel Tagabuel, Shane Ogumoro, Elias Saralu, Wayne Pua, Junior Renguul, and Gyles Ruluked.

In 2002, Ol'Aces I won the Budweiser Cup after steamrolling past the CNMI National Team in the finals.